

Badger Tracks - September 2004

Annual Meeting

Mark your calendar!! Marla Coleman is coming to town! Marla Coleman, president of the ACA, will be the keynote speaker at our annual meeting in Madison on November 18, from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Bethel Lutheran Church. We'll celebrate who we are as she'll talk about the research, the new name and the strength of ACA in the coming years. Watch for email and postal information. Plan to bring your display, share what makes your camp special, and learn where ACA is headed.

Roster Update

In the next couple of weeks, you'll receive a request for your current information. Please check last year's roster and make any corrections on the forms that will be provided. If you are director of a camp, please check the camp rental/non-rental section, too. If you were not listed last year, please complete the entire forms. Because it will be sent to a printer, please adhere to the deadline that will be included.

Did You Miss It?

By Anne Derber, President

Don't blink too fast. You might miss summer! A common statement as we wrap up our summer season and prepare for the fall. I am sure summer seems like a distant memory because of the cool weather, busy schedules, intensity of our programs, campers, families, and so forth.

As colors are splashed across the northern trees, I reflect on the fact that our summer was safe, campers had enriching experiences and strong, life foundations were built through our programs. The "ripple effect" of our camp programs are now being felt by the campers, staff, their families, schools and communities.

Many of us have challenges ahead; enrollment, ensuring quality programs, raising money, and retaining our best staff. The cycle continues. I hope you can take some time to reflect, celebrate, build a strong foundation which will allow you to move forward with confidence and excitement.

Traditions

A new feature of the Badger Tracks is a column called Traditions! Camps in Wisconsin are so rich with tradition, let's share them. Please email your Traditions to acawisconsin@charter.net. Here's a great one to start the Traditions off!

My name is Maggie (Mack) Jack. I am program director at Camp Birch Trails, (CBT) which is a Girl Scout Camp run by the Girl Scouts of the Fox River Area Inc.

Here at CBT we have a great tradition with red suspenders.

At CBT we have a tripping program where the girls can go canoeing, kayaking, mountain biking, and backpacking. All of these different trips have at least 4 levels. Our 4th level trip is called Canadian because when we first started doing trips many years ago, we only had canoe trips, and the final one (4th level) went up to the Boundary Water Canoe Area (BWCA) in MN. So, to represent Canada and their red flag, the campers and staff who went on the Canadian would receive red suspenders for all of their hard work.

When I was a camper, I started out with a general camp program my first summer, then the second summer I participated in a program where I got to sample a little of the two types of trips, which were canoeing and backpacking. I decided on canoeing. My third summer I went on the 1st level

trip. I canoed down the Menomonee River. The next two summers I did the next level trip, and then I reached the 4th level canoe trip, my canoe Canadian. We went up the BWCA for 10 days of canoeing and having tons of fun and lots of hard work. At the end of the 10 days when we got back to Ely, MN, my counselors had a ceremony telling us how great we all were and what we have accomplished. At the end we were presented with our Red Suspenders. It was an experience I will never forget.

I still have those suspenders and they hang in my room to remind me of my camper Canadian and all I accomplished as a camper.

I have also had the great experience of leading 3 Canoe Canadians as a counselor, and have had the privilege of presenting my campers with their red suspenders and telling them how great they are and about all of their accomplishments and everything they have achieved through their time at camp. For the last 8 years or so, the campers have received their red suspenders at our closing campfire, so that all of the campers and staff can share the Canadians' (campers) achievements.

The Red Suspenders mean something different to everyone who has received them; they could mean friendship, sacrifice, accomplishing goals, tons of fun, hard work, self discovery, determination and memories to last a life time. No matter what they may mean to each person who receives them, the receiving of the Red Suspenders after a Canadian is a great honor.

Fall Workshop 2004

Tuesday, October 5, marks the date of the Fall Workshop, Harvesting Your Staff Community. Our leader will be Kim Wenzl Aycock who has made many presentations on this subject.

The program will be held at Holiday Home Camp in Williams Bay. You should have received a flyer with all the minute details. If not, call ACA Illinois at 312-332-0833.

New National Magazine

CAMP—A Resource for Families will be available to Camps and Individuals for FREE!

CAMP—A Resource for Families will come off the presses at the very end of December—for official distribution January 5. It will be a colorful and contemporary 100-page magazine devoted to sharing the joy of camp with families nationwide. Content will include CAMP ESSENTIALS like:

- What to Look for When Choosing a Camp
- Ten Great Questions You'll Want to Ask a Camp Director
- The Right Camp for Every Child
- Sharing Camp Planning with Your Child
- Camp Activities and Lifetime Wellness
- How Camp Builds Confidence and Self-Esteem

There are many ways that we can use this magazine. Each section will be given as many free copies of the magazine as requested! There are many possibilities for distribution in addition to camp fairs. Why not plan to give copies to each of your camp families? Or drop them at your local PTO or schools? How about pediatrician's offices or by the free-newspapers at the grocery store? This is a valuable resource, and it won't cost one cent for you to get the ACA word out.

THIS IS IMPORTANT!! Please contact ACA Wisconsin at 1-608-663-0051 or acawisconsin@charter.net to let us know how many copies you would like for your camp and area of the state. We must hear from you, with your order, before September 25. We can cover the state with a high quality publication that promotes the value of camp. Let's do it!!

Branding

The new name and logo are on the way! Here's where we stand.

- If you've looked, you can see the new parent website is up at www.CampParents.org or www.ACACamps.org/parents. This is the first website where you can see the new name and logo.
- A press release has gone out, and actually, we have already had a call from the Metro Parent about our name change.
- Our Section office will make the transition to our new letterhead soon (because our old is almost gone.) So, in the near future, any letters you get from ACA Wisconsin will refer to us as the American Camp Association!
- Within the month of September, we are scheduled to receive the Brand Manual, which will address the proper use, application guidelines, reproduction and downloadable resources available so that we can use the new name and logo. Watch your BT bulletins for information as it arrives.

ACA's New Parent Website

You've been hearing about ACA's expanded efforts to reach parents for some time now. One of our parent outreach initiatives is the development of a much-improved site on the Web for parents. That new site went live on August 20, 2004.

As this new site goes live, we need to make sure that you have the correct address to link to the site – and we want to ensure that you have the latest content information. Contact Paul at 800-428-2267 or pbidwell@acacamps.org for help with links.

If you currently link to the ACA parent web site www.acacamps.org/parents from somewhere on your site, you will not have to do anything; this link will take you to the new content. You may also change the link to www.campparents.org.

If you provide content information for parents that you have copied from the old ACA parent Web site – please do not use this old content. You are welcome to copy any of the new content you would like to use. If you have any questions about the content itself – or want suggestions about using any particular portion, please contact Harried Gamble at 800-428-2267 or hgamble@acacamps.org.

Whooping Cough

Whooping cough, also called pertussis, seems to be more of a factor in our society than it was a few years ago. Is that true? And if our kids are immunized, why is there whooping cough at all?

To answer these questions, we researched on the U.S. Government's Centers for Disease Control website, www.cdc.gov.

First off, it appears that pertussis is on the rise, although experts are not sure whether the gradually

increasing incidence reflects the 3-5 year cycle of the disease or if diagnosing and reporting are improved. In 2002, 9700 cases were reported—the most since 1964. Prior to the introduction of the vaccine in the 1940s, there were more than 200,000 cases of pertussis in the U.S. every year. Since the introduction of the vaccine, the incidence has decreased by 98%. It is still a huge problem worldwide with an estimated 285,000 deaths every year from the pertussis bacteria.

Here are a few facts that you may find helpful:

- The pertussis bacteria is not known to exist in any animals other than humans.
- It is transmitted by respiratory droplets.
- It is highly communicable. If one person in a household gets it, up to 80% of the rest of the people in the household contract it.
- The vaccine is thought to be 80-85% effective in preventing the infection, and if the infection is contracted, children who have been immunized have milder symptoms.
- The highest risk is to young infants. If an adult contracts it, he or she will most likely have a milder case. The danger is that if an adult contracts it, he can transmit the infection to an infant.
- The vaccination schedule is for four or five immunizations (depending on when they were started, and finished by the time the child begins kindergarten.)
- Immunity decreases with time. It is thought that 7% of all cough illnesses in adults are caused by the pertussis virus.
- No vaccine for pertussis is licensed for use in the U.S. for anyone over the age of seven. With current available vaccines, adverse reactions are thought to be more frequent in people who are seven years of age, and older. A vaccine has been approved for use

in adults in Canada, and one may be made available for adults in the U.S. soon.

- The most reliable method to test for perussis is a culture of secretions.
- If individuals are living in close proximity and one is diagnosed with pertussis, physicians often recommend that the others in the house be treated with antibiotics, to prevent spread of the disease.

Must Read!

The ACA Wisconsin library is growing, and as members you can borrow up-to-date state of the industry books. You probably read the list of our collection titles in the last Badger Tracks. In this issue, we will start the regular feature, MUST READ! This column will feature a book review from one of our collection. As a special bonus, in this issue MUST READ! will review two books, Crucial Conversations and the new book, Crucial Confrontations, which is hot off the presses...it isn't even in bookstores yet. Both books are by Kerry Patterson, Joseph Grenny, Ron McMillan, and Al Switzler.

Crucial Conversations discusses everyday situations, and conversations that affect your everyday life. These are conversations that are held when opinions vary and the stakes are high. MUST READ! met the author, and bought the book nearly two years ago, and there is no doubt that the skills learned are useful in camp during the crazy summer season when a counselor returns late from a day off, or a parent is unhappy her son's jacket is lost. Many camp directors have learned to handle these situations, but often the leadership staff has not.

Crucial Conversations starts by helping us identify the "pool of meaning" that accompanies us wherever we go. We are encouraged to work with the person with whom we are communicating to develop a "pool of shared meaning." This alone is a great idea. People

who are skilled communicators make it safe for everyone to add ideas to the pool of shared meaning. That doesn't mean everyone has to agree with what's in the pool—it just helps to have everyone know what's in the pool. As the pool of shared meaning grows, it helps everyone understand information that is accurate and relevant, and the pool of shared meaning ups the group's IQ. The larger the shared pool, the smarter the decision we make.

Thinking about the pool of shared meaning is just one of the ideas that makes this an a-ha read.

Now, from the same authors comes *Crucial Confrontations*. How do you deal with people who fail to live up to their promises? If a counselor, activity leader or the parent of one of your campers misses a deadline, fails to live up to a commitment or just behaves badly, how do you handle this sticky situation, and what can you do to make it right? *Crucial Confrontations* promises to help us learn skills to resolve touchy, controversial and complex issues at camp and at home.

Both books are at your section office. Just email acawisconsin@charter.net, or phone 1-608-663-0051 and ask to borrow one or both of them. They will be mailed to you, along with a postage paid return envelope.

NHTSA Repeats Rollover Warning to Users of 15-Passenger Vans

The U.S. Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) re-issued a warning to users of 15-passenger vans because of an increased rollover risk under certain conditions. Similar warnings were issued in 2001 and 2002.

The newly released NHTSA research reinforces the fact that 15-passenger vans have a rollover risk that increases

dramatically as the number of occupants increases to full capacity. In fact, the likelihood of a rollover when a van is fully loaded is about five times greater than when the vehicle contains only a driver. While an increased likelihood of rollover is present for other types of fully loaded passenger vehicles, it is more pronounced for 15-passenger vans.

The new NHTSA analysis also showed that the risk of rollover increased significantly at speeds over 50 miles per hour and on curved roads.

"It is vitally important that users of 15-passenger vans be aware of these risks," said NHTSA Administrator Jeffrey W. Runge, M.D. "It is critical that users follow safety precautions to significantly reduce those risks."

Among the safety recommendations are the following:

- Vans should be operated by trained, experienced drivers.
- All occupants must wear safety belts at all times. In fact, 76% of those who died in 15-passenger van rollovers nationwide in single vehicle crashes from 1990 to 2002 were not buckled up. An unrestrained 15-passenger van occupant involved in a single vehicle crash is about three times as likely to be killed as a restrained occupant.
- Passengers and cargo should be forward of the rear axle. None of the load should be placed on the van roof.
- Tires should be in good repair with adequate tread. Excessively worn or improperly inflated tires can lead to loss of control

According to NHTSA research between 1990 and 2002, there were 1,576 15-passenger vans involved in fatal crashes. Of these, 349 were single vehicle rollover crashes.

The NHTSA's comprehensive plan to improve 15-passenger van safety, can be found at www.nhtsa.dot.gov/cars/problems/studies/15PassVans/15PassCustomerAdvisory.htm

Recipe for Great Camp Dining

*By Greg Friese, President
Emergency Preparedness
Systems LLC*

I love camp food. Somehow, I can still eat like a teenager. My travels allow me to sample camp food around the country. Meals are my best opportunity to learn about culture, tradition, and strengthen relationships. I interact with campers, staff, and make casual conversation while passing the peaches, pleading for hot sauce, or anticipating dessert. As a camp food aficionado, this is my recipe for great camp dining.

1. **Round tables set for eight or less.** At Camp Nicolet, I can share stories with my tablemates, honor food-passing requests, and even learn their names.
2. **Fresh and Homemade.** Camp Menogyn YMCA food is excessively lifted as it is ferried across the lake and carried up hill to the dining hall. The journey makes the fresh baked bread, homemade dessert, and seasonal fruit even more enjoyable.
3. **Quality control nails the little things.** Debris removal from overnight visitors (4-legged) is best removed before the meal, not during.
4. **Location, location, location.** Close to the food window is convenient but hardly inspirational when the dining hall is not at capacity. The best table in the Northwoods is in front of the Camp Manito-wish YMCA Nash Lodge fireplace.
5. **Blow the roof off with song and cheer.** Camp Kawaga knows every college fight song and manages to sing/shout most during lunch. I was

having so much fun I almost forgot to eat.

6. **End on a high note.** Camp Jörn YMCA announcements are like a program activity, adding value to the experience and reinforcing tradition. Finally, any meal that ends with cookie or ice cream treat is a success for me.

Between meals, Greg Friese, provides emergency planning services, tabletop disaster simulations, and staff training to first response agencies, hospitals, and adventure programs, and may be reached at epsinfo@charter.net or 715-321-1800.

Recognitions and Awards

By Sharon Wuttke, Recognition Chair

At the Section's Annual Meeting, awards to worthy Section members are presented. The criteria and [nomination form*](#) are listed below. Members are urged to send their recommendations to Sharon Wuttke, Aurora University, P.O. Box 210, Williams Bay, WI 53191, or swuttke@aurora.edu by October 7.

Selection Criteria for Awards

Acorn Award

The Acorn Award is the highest honor presented to a nominated member of ACA Wisconsin. Its purpose is to honor individual members of the Section who have given truly outstanding and exceptional service to camping within the Section that is "above and beyond the call of duty." Carrying out the normal duties of an elected office or chairship of a committee is not alone sufficient. The following criteria are to be followed when considering a nominee for the award:

1. Character and moral standing beyond question.
2. Affiliation with ACA for a period of not less than 10 years and with the

- Wisconsin Section for at least 5 years.
3. Service rendered by the nominee must have been outstanding, beneficial to camping, and reflected in benefits to the Section.
 4. Participation and/or leadership in ACA national events, trainings, special outstanding programs, workshops/institutes or chairing national committees.
 5. Articles for publications, research efforts, and/or public presentations related to camping.
 6. Active participation in other organizations: civic, fraternal, religious, or professionally related.

Oak Leaf Award

1. High standards of character and moral standing.
2. Membership and affiliation with ACA for a period of not less than 5 years, with at least 3 years in Wisconsin Section.
3. Service rendered by individual is outstanding and beyond expectations.
4. Participation and/or leadership in ACA national events, local trainings, workshop/institutes, outstanding programs or chairing section committees.
5. Active participation in other organizations: civic, fraternal, religious, or professionally related.

Section's Newcomer Award

1. Nominee has been an active ACA member for less than three years.
2. Participates in section activities, i.e., Mid States, annual meeting, spring or fall meetings.
3. Participated in committees, workshops, or leadership role for Section.

Certificate of Appreciation

1. Member of ACA
2. Dedicated service or special contribution to the Wisconsin Section. May be

a one-time service or long-term service.

Excellence In Program Recognition

1. Implementation through Badger Tracks.
2. Anyone may submit a camp profile highlighting such items as: top notch safety, high percentage return rate for campers and/or staff, new, innovative and successful existing programs.
3. These profiles will be submitted to the awards committee representative to be shared through Badger Tracks.

ACA Visitor Recognition

Upon completion of the visitor training and recognition by the Section Board of Directors as an ACA Associate or Lead Visitor, the individual will receive a name plate to be worn during visits.

Friends of Camping Recognition

1. A nonmember who has made a contribution to the Wisconsin Section.
2. The contribution could be a monetary donation or service, such as an individual or corporation giving time or resources to workshops or training.

*Download a printable PDF of the nomination form [here](#).

Your ACA Wisconsin Section Public Awareness / Communications Committee

Requests your assistance this summer.

Photos

Please send us your photos that depict the spirit and essence of your camp that can be used for the purpose of public relations in all types of media. Digital photos preferred, but not necessary. Please be sure that

you have the proper legal media releases from your subjects. Contact us if you need ACA's recommended wording.

Articles

If you, your staff, or your campers have a camp-related story to tell, please send it to us. We are looking for articles to submit to parent publications that will promote the benefits of camping. Thanks!

Send to:
Public Awareness/Communications Committee
P.O. Box 1359
Eagle River, WI 54521
campnico@newnorth.net